1: Bowen-Jones et al. K-5 (1955-1958) 1961
EZ6 Malta EZ6

*423 102 311 [133] [489]

This small agricultural entity, the Maltese Farm, is further split into a number of non-contiguous plots or parcels, each of no great size. In illustration of this and other related points a small area in Malta, square in shape with a side half a mile long, has been examined in some detail (Fig. 135). The area lies in the Central Region, between Siġġiewi and Żebbuġ, and includes in its north-eastern corner, part of the latter settlement. It is dissected by two steep-sided valleys, that of the Wied il-Beqqiegha crossing from south-west to north-east, and the Wied il-Ħesri which appears in the south-east corner. Narrow, terraced fields follow the contours of the valley sides but, on the more rounded relief of the interfluve, the fields, although still terraced, become generally larger and more nearly square in shape. Apart from the valley-floors, used as foot- and cart-ways, with other accommodation roads and paths, non-agricultural lands are limited to a few house-sites in the outskirts of Żebbuġ. A few scattered patches of rock outcrop occur on the steeper slopes, but the only large patch of uncultivated land covers the north-eastern lobe of the large tenancy plot lying south of the area shaded black in map. The remaining land is devoted to dry farming crops characteristic of the region.

LAND TENURE (Fig. 135A)

The underlying topography, clearly influences the shape, and, to a lesser extent the size of the tenurial plots. This is most striking in the north-eastern quadrant, where long, narrow plots reflect the sinuous terraces of the Wied il-Beqqiegha; on the slopes of the Wied il-Ħesri, however, the relationship is scarcely apparent. Shallower gradients are covered by plots of fuller and more varied shape differing greatly in size. In the north-east corner small and oddly shaped tenancy parcels are clearly related to the nearby settlements and are mainly specialised garden plots. An anomalous area of small plots in the opposite corner breaks up the general tendency of increasing size away from the casal.

Tenancy units are small in size, but there is enormous variation. The average of the parcels shown here, including parts of parcels beyond the limits of the area mapped, is slightly less than 5 *tmien*. The smallest garden plot (*b*, north-east corner) contains about one-twentieth of a *tmien* of land, while the large plot of fieldland in the south (*z*) is about 50 *tmien* in extent. There may be a tendency for plots to be larger in areas where soils are thin and poor, but the two distributions can certainly not be equated.

Of the 129 plots, parts of which lie within the half mile square, 57 are held by farmers with no other land in the area. But the remaining 29 holdings each have two or more non-contiguous parcels. This relationship is indicated by the use of distinctive shading in the case of Sample Holdings II and V, and otherwise by the letter *a* to *z* and *d*. Holding *b* (six plots) scattered throughout the northern two-thirds of the area is an extreme example of the typical parcellation.

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LAND OWNERSHIP (Fig. 135B)

In general terms, within the area shown here, the distributions of ownership and of tenure are similar. As shown in Fig. 135B, there are many scattered plots belonging to the same owner, a characteristic which might be termed fragmented ownership. A similar cartographical convention to that used in Fig. 135A is adopted here. Plots owned by the same private owner are indicated by the letters A-J (I is excluded); the numbers 1-4 are used similarly for the various classes of ecclesiastical ownership. All plots, whether duplicated or not, belonging to the latter class, which includes monastic, episcopal, and parish land, as well as land owned by Charitable Institutions (a very small proportion in this area), are distinguished by a special system of shading as also are Civil Government lands. The rather special cases of ownership by the occupier or by his parent are also distinguished from the bulk of the parcels which are owned by other private persons.

Looking at the distribution in its basic form, as a simple pattern of parcels, ignoring the various special relationships, several points emerge. As in the map of tenure, there is a complex network, but the weave is generally coarser,

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103
491
487
131
311

2: Boissevain E-5 (1960-1961) 1965
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[P.2]